

ADVANCE



The Child is Born

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

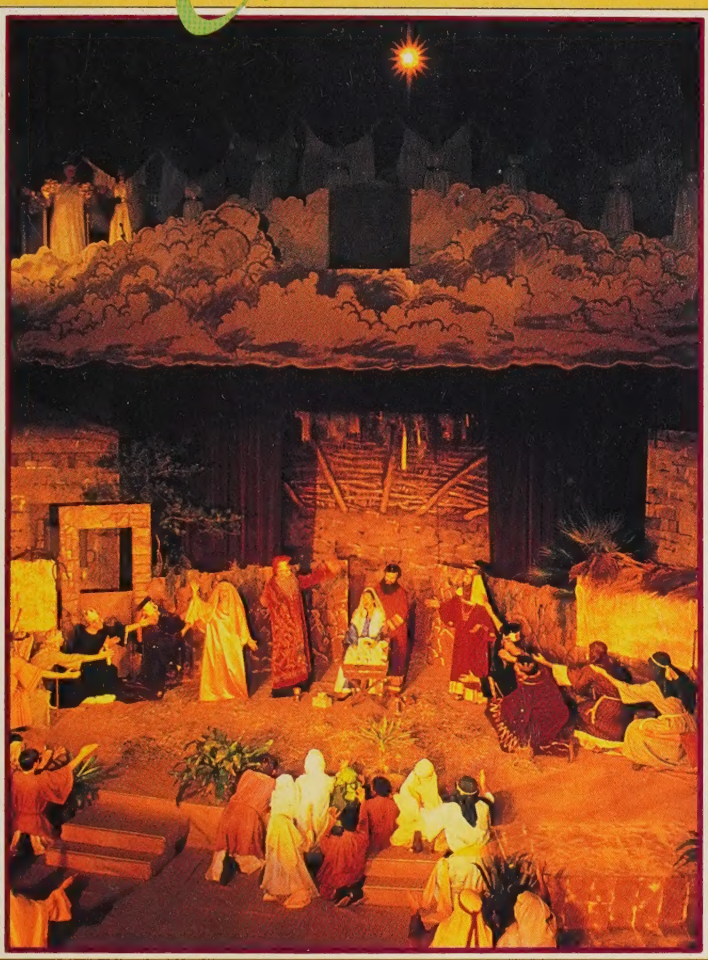
Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel

said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give

him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

"The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in



her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

(Luke 1: 26-38, NIV)



By Janice Pedersen

We Will Love Him—Won't We?

I had just finished praying with my good friend Ruth in the temple of Jerusalem today when it happened. Would you believe I am 84 years old now—can't do anything strenuous—but nevertheless I am kept busier than a bee worshipping God and praying for friends. "Anna," one says, "can you pray for my ill daughter?" "Anna," another says, "would you pray for my husband's appointment?"

But I don't mind one bit. It would bother me if they didn't ask. You see, my husband passed away after only seven years of marriage, and I have been living at the temple ever since. I never leave it, day or night. Why? Because this is my life's sustenance: to worship God in fasting and prayer.

Anyway, I had just finished praying when I felt it—I was sure of it—the sudden change in the atmosphere. Some might have laughed at me, but after this many years, I know the temple better than anyone. Besides, I am called Anna the prophetess.

Quickly glancing up, I caught a glimpse of a young couple walking in with a tiny baby in the mother's arms. This was no unusual sight, but when Simeon met them excitedly and started praising God with them, I knew something was up. I know Simeon. He lives here in Jerusalem, and whatever he says carries great weight, for he knows God very intimately.

Not wanting to interrupt, but unable to keep my curiosity down, I walked slowly to where they were, and—suddenly—it was confirmed to me. This was the Messiah! The revelation in my heart was as sure and strong as anything I had ever known! This was He!

A reverent fear and sense of awe of God raced through my body. I felt, at least for myself, that I dare not even touch the Child—for this was the Holy One. Instead, I too began praising God, and then practically began running (and me at age 84) through the temple telling everyone He had finally come.

Day has darkened to night, and I am in prayerful meditation. Just think of all the joy and happiness the Christ Child will bring! We have waited for the Messiah for so long; surely everyone will be joyful and ready to help Him out in every way he or she can. Surely His reign will be long and glorious on this earth, and all the people will willingly serve Him. Surely....

Ah, but why does a passage from Isaiah come to mind? It must be from chapter 53: "We despised Him and rejected Him—a Man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief..." (vs. 3, LB). Oh, surely Isaiah is not speaking of the Messiah! I must be mistaken.

No, everyone will love Him, everyone will worship Him. How could it not be so? We have waited for so long—we will welcome Him with open arms....

"We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way when He went by. He was despised and we didn't care..." (vs. 3, LB).

Oh, Lord, it can't be. It just can't be. That little baby.... Please, Lord, maybe I should warn Mary of what might come, or at least Joseph, so he can stand by her in time of pain....

Yes, Lord, you are right. It will come in time soon enough.

But, Lord, isn't there another way, some other destiny, so this little babe will not have to endure—?

I understand, Lord. You have planned it this way.

Oh, but Lord, after this difficult task is complete, will the people in centuries far beyond my time understand what was done for them through this Child? After all, you know human nature, Lord, it is so easy to forget—or to just not understand....

Yes, I see, Lord. It must be their choice.

But what if they don't realize the importance....

Yes, Lord, whether they choose to understand or not, it is their choice. Their choice alone.

Oh, but Lord, if there was just some way I could tell them....

(Based on Luke 2:36-38)

The tree ornaments are unshelled from last year's newspaper wrappings, the lights are tested, and soon stands a tall, glistening Christmas tree. The beautiful tradition never changes, year after year. But have you ever wondered why we decorate a Christmas tree and what it represents?

We talk of a legendary Santa Claus filling our stockings. Did you know that there really was a St. Nick?

Traditions of Christmas—handed down from parents to children to grandchildren. A special time of cooking, gift giving, church activities, decorating, and visiting family and friends. It seems as if December has always been this way.

But for almost two centuries after the resurrection, the birth of the Lord was not acknowledged by the church. Only the deaths of Jesus and the saints were considered worthy of recognition.

Christmas in April?

The first mention of something unusual in honor of the nativity was written by Clement of Alexandria about 200 A.D. Apparently the celebration was held on January 6, on dates near the end of March, and in April, May, September, and October, as well as several in December, because no one knew exactly when Jesus was born.

Finally, about 400 A.D., the Western Church ordered a universal feast for the birth of Christ. The Pope chose December 25, supposedly because it fell near several pagan festivals, including Saturnalia, a Roman holiday honoring Saturn, one of their gods.

For more than a thousand years, Christmas was purely religious; the Church was unable to make it popular. At last, traditions from Martinmas (honoring St. Martin, born 316 A.D.) and St. Andrew's Day (in honor of the disciple Andrew) in November, the feast of St. Nicholas on December 6, and the feast of the Wise Men in January were all moved to the new holiday, and Christmas became a special day for the people.

By the Middle Ages, it was the most loved celebration of the year, and both homes and churches joined in the festivities. The name appeared about this time; "Christmas" comes from "Christes Masse," the medieval way of saying "Mass of Christ."

Yes, There Was a Saint Nick

One of the earliest traditions of the season comes from the life of a real person, St. Nicholas, today called "Santa Claus." Born in Asia Minor late in the third century, he was the son of wealthy and devout Christian parents. He was still young when they died, and he used his inheritance to minister to the poor.

One instance was recorded by Meta-

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COVER PHOTO: "The Bells of Bethlehem." Photo by Mike Helms. See story p. 4.

While they were there, Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ☆ ☆ ☆

How Traditions Became Traditions

The Stockings Were Hung

By Anne C. Williman

crates in 912 A.D. Three sisters were marriageable age, but their father had no money for their dowries and sadly decided to sell them. Aware of their plight, Nicholas threw a bag of gold in the girls' window one night. The father caught him, and Nicholas explained he was bringing it in the name of Christ. Promising not to tell where he had found the money, the man was convinced to use it for the dowries.

Another version of the story has Nicholas tossing the coins down the chimney, filling the girls' stockings hung in the fireplace to dry, thus contributing to the legend of Santa stuffing stockings. The youngest man up until that time to hold the office, Nicholas served as bishop of the city of Myra and later was imprisoned and tortured during a time of persecution against Christians.

Upon his release, he learned that a popular preacher, Arius, had been teaching that Jesus was inferior to God. Nicholas tried to convince people that the doctrine was wrong and unsupported by scripture, but many accepted Arius' theory.

At last a council was held at Nicaea to determine the truth. According to legend, Nicholas was so angry at Arius at the meeting that he hit him in the mouth. It meant he lost his position of bishop, but Arius was expelled, and the Nicene Creed written at the council accepted the view that the Son was equal to God.

Later reinstated as bishop, Nicholas spent the rest of his life in Myra. He cared for the sick, started orphanages, provided for the poor, and defended civil rights for Jews. Miracles were even attributed to him, such as a story involving three murdered boys who came back to life at his touch.

He died in 343 A.D. and was made a saint by the Catholic Church. Through the centuries, St. Nicholas became associated with Christmas, especially with gift giving.

Englanders Caroled Half the Night

Presents also evolved as part of Christmas because of the Wise Men's gifts to the baby Jesus, as well as the custom of feasting during Saturnalia. Another part of Saturnalia that has carried over is the use

of candles, which came to be used to light the way for the Christ Child.

Nativity plays were an early Christmas custom, and the creche, or display of the manger scene, goes back to 1223 A.D., when St. Francis assembled the first one. He used live animals and people to make the birth of Jesus more real to his church in Greccio, Italy.

Caroling at Christmastime originally meant dancing done to flute music. Other participants stood in a ring and sang joyfully. After the Norman Conquest, caroling became traditional in England, where people would spend half of the night before Christmas going from door to door singing. At each home they would find a warm welcome.

Christmas Tree Attributed to...Martin Luther

A carol often sung today is "O Tannenbaum." The song and the Christmas tree that inspired it are from Germany, where Martin Luther supposedly began the custom. While walking through the woods one Christmas Eve, he was overwhelmed by the beauty around him. To share his joy with his family, he impulsively cut down a small tree, brought it home with him, and set it up. Then he put candles on

it to represent the stars.

The Christmas tree gained popularity and it was brought to England by Queen Victoria's German husband, who put one up in the palace for his children. The next year, almost every home in the country followed suit.

The Christmas tree tradition was carried to America by German soldiers who came to fight in the Revolutionary War, and by settlers.

How appropriate for Christmas when one sees the number of times the Bible refers to Jesus in terms of a tree! He is called the Highest Branch, a Tender Plant, a Root out of dry ground, the Planting of the Lord, and a Rod out of the Stem of Jesse, among others.

The Christmas tree can remind believers of the Lord in a number of ways, according to Dick Mills, evangelist and author. The evergreen is the perennial color, a symbol of eternity, since life in

(Continued on p. 15)



Mrs. Williman is a free-lance writer with over 150 sales to such magazines as *Guideposts*, *Moody Monthly* and *Christian Life*. She and her husband attend the Living Word Foursquare Church in Tiffin, Ohio.

Illustration: An Old-Fashioned Christmas in Illustration and Decoration, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1975. Used with permission.



And there were shepherds in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone, and they were terrified. ★ ★

By Janice Pedersen, Editor

The Bells of Bethlehem

A woman, neatly dressed in a current 1933 fashion, pulls a white sheet of paper from a sturdy oak desk. It is blank except for intermittent rows of lines in fives—meaningless to anyone but the music composer. As if in automation she mechanically draws the treble and bass clef, for she is intent not on their precise angle, but rather on the feelings of a moment in time centuries ago.

The room is, in truth, silent, and the year is indeed 1933, but nevertheless, she hears it as if she were there—the angel chorus singing the birth of the Son. Rapidly, lest she quickly forget, she writes what she hears in the form of half and whole notes. Soon, she sees the excited shepherds walking briskly toward the manger...yes, rapid sixteenths here...and oh, the inexpressible view with mother and father caring for the Son...definitely a dramatic pause here, followed by the majestic sound of full orchestra....

Pushing the pen aside, she quickly

heads to the beloved Kimball organ to try it out...and the notes almost literally spring off the paper to dance from one organ pipe to another. She laughs in satisfaction. The major portion has been written. And it is even more beautiful than she had hoped for.

1933—a music score, carefully dusted after storage, rests on the Kimball organ. "The Bells of Bethlehem," it reads, by Aimee Semple McPherson, 1933. Lights are dimmed, and practiced fingers fly over the sixteenths, then are abruptly silenced at the pause. The audience is as thrilled as if they had been hearing the first performance 50 years ago.

Aimee Semple McPherson, known worldwide in the early 1900s as evangelist, author, songwriter, musician and founder of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, was one who understood music and could feel music. She composed 180 songs and five major operas, one of which was "The Bells of Bethlehem."

What is unique about "The Bells of Bethlehem," however, is its ability to convey real people as they lived and worked, and their candid reaction to most unusual events planned for them by God Himself. Mary is shown startled by



Norman Nelson as Gabriel

The Angel Appears to Mary

GABRIEL

Hail! Thou'rt highly favored,
The Lord is with thee.

MARY (startled)

Ah! What manner of salutation is this?

GABRIEL

Fear not, Mary,
For thou hast found favor with God,
And behold, thou shalt bring forth a Son,
And call His name Jesus!
He shall be great,
And shall be called
The Son of the most High,
And of His kingdom
There shall be no end.

MARY

How shall this be
Seeing I know not a man?

GABRIEL

The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee,
And the power of the most High
Shall o'ershadow thee,
Wherefore, also that which is to be
born shall be called holy,
The Son of God.

MARY

Behold, the handmaiden of the Lord,
Be it done according to thy word.

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Fred Frank as Zacharias

John is Born to Elizabeth

Amid great rejoicing, the child John is brought to the Temple. The question of name arises, and Zacharias, who was struck deaf and dumb, is consulted

PRIEST

We shall call the child Zacharias.

PEOPLE

Aye, Zacharias! Aye, Zacharias!

ELIZABETH

Not so, he shall be called John!

PEOPLE

There be none of his kindred
That be called by this name!

ELIZABETH

His name shall be called John!

PRIEST

Let us make signs unto his father
And inquire his will.
He remaineth deaf and dumb
Since the day of his vision.

(Gives papyrus to Zacharias. Zacharias writes and returns scroll to priest.)

His name is John.

ZACHARIAS

Blessed be God!

PEOPLE

He speaks!

PRIEST

What then shall this child be?
The hand of the Lord is with him.



Lou Robbins as Elizabeth



Joseph and Mary in the Carpenter Shop

JOSEPH

My sorrows have outweighed me,
For Mary hath betrayed me.
Who is this man whose arms enfolded her?

Whose child will soon
Be born of her?

(Mary enters unobserved)

She whom I trusted hath
Betrayed me.
Mary, Mary!

MARY

My Joseph, be not sorrowful.

JOSEPH

Begone! Why comest thou to me?
I trusted thee, espoused wife,
I trusted with my very life.

MARY

Look on my face, O Joseph.

JOSEPH

I thought thee fair as lily white,
Thou filled my heart with darkest night!

MARY

Joseph, beloved, this lily fair
That blooms within my garden there—
It is no purer than my heart.

But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born; he is Christ the Lord." ★ ★ ★

the angel Gabriel, but soon warms because of childlike belief, while Zacharias is stricken dumb because he doubts. Joseph is severely torn and questions Mary's faithfulness to him, resulting in an argument between the two. But in spite of human weakness, and in great honor, Mary, Joseph, Zacharias and Elizabeth become part of God's redemption plan.

In a Golden Anniversary celebration of its composition 50 years ago, "The Bells of Bethlehem" was featured in a special production at Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, last Christmas. International Foursquare President Dr. Rolf K. McPherson commissioned Rev. Paul Mickelson, renowned organist who also

began his career on the Angelus Temple Kimball, to fly to London. There, Mickelson conducted the London National Philharmonic Orchestra to record the score of the opera. Acclaimed soloists were gathered: Norman Nelson, Ken Hyde, Drinda Frenzel, Lou Robbins and Arlynn Toavs.

Finally, opening night, Rev. Mickelson ascended the organ to play alongside the orchestra recording. The words, "The Bells of Bethlehem" by Aimee Semple McPherson, 1933, seemed faded now. But the sixteenth notes still danced on the page. The great Kimball pipes, ready to boast their sound, awaited their cue. The organist allowed a momentary pause...and then his fingers flew.

"Bells of Bethlehem" Recordings Available

Golden Anniversary recordings of "The Bells of Bethlehem" are available, featuring the newly restored Kimball organ (see story on page 6), the London National Philharmonic Orchestra, and soloists.

Stereo albums (two records) are available for \$14.95; or cassette (C-90) tapes (two tapes) at \$9.95. Please add \$1.50 for postage/handling, and 6% CA sales tax (6-1/2% where applicable).

Send your check indicating album or cassette to: Foursquare Publications, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.

Drinda Frenzel as Mary



Ken Hyde as Joseph

Joseph Believes Mary

GABRIEL

Joseph, thou son of David,
Fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife,
For that which is conceived in her
Is of the Holy Ghost.

JOSEPH

Lord, I believe!

GABRIEL (joyfully)

Blessed are they
Who having not seen
Yet believe.

JOSEPH

Mary! Mary!

MARY

Joseph!

JOSEPH

Blessed art thou among women.
Who am I that the mother of my Lord
Should come unto me?

ANGELS

Hail Mary, the Lord is with thee!
Hail Mary, the Lord is with thee!

MARY

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

ANGELS

Thou shalt bring forth a Son,
Bring forth a Son,
The Son of the Highest,
Fear not, fear not. Amen.

Seeking Shelter at the Inn

INNKEEPER

Who knocketh?
The hour is late,
The Inn is crowded.

JOSEPH

It is I, Joseph of Nazareth.
I have come hither to the city of my father, David,
Bearing taxes for Caesar Augustus.
Make haste! I seek shelter for my wife.

INNKEEPER

There is no room in the Inn.

JOSEPH

She must have shelter.

INNKEEPER

For days and hours the transients come,
The whole world seemeth on the move.
My rooms are filled from cellar to garret!
There is no room, no room in the Inn!

JOSEPH

Good host, I would speak with thee in private.
I pray thee descend; I would whisper in thine ear.

INNKEEPER

Ah! I'm sorry for thee,
I hesitate to offer it—!

JOSEPH

The need is urgent!

INNKEEPER

This stable...

The Earth Rejoices

ANGELS

Rejoice, O Earth, rejoice!
Sing aloud ye heav'ns above!
Unto you a Child is born,
Unto you a Son is given.

ZACHARIAS

Long hath Israel waited,
Hath waited for her Saviour,
And through the night
Hath longed for light,
The Light of God.

ANGELS

Oh praise Him!

SHEPHERDS

King of Shepherds!

WISE MEN

Lord of wisdom!

ELIZABETH

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!
Make straight the paths of His feet.

ALL

Behold He hath sent His messenger,
And He will prepare the way.

MARY, ELIZABETH, JOSEPH,
ZACHARIAS AND PEOPLE

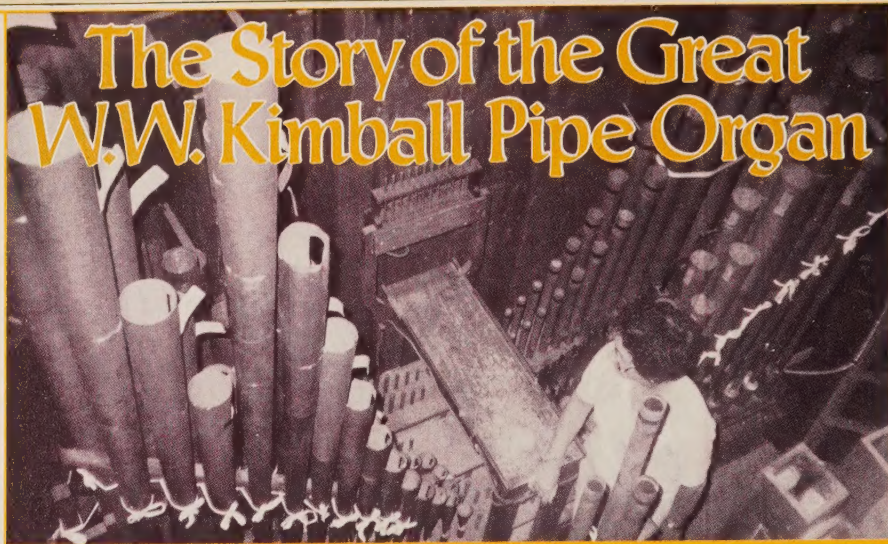
Glory to God in the Highest,
Peace on earth, good will toward men!
Glory to God in the Highest!
Glory to God in the Highest!
Peace on earth, good will toward,
Good will toward men,
Toward men. Amen, Amen.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

Unto Us a
Child is Born

After Jesus was born, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star and have come to worship him." ☆ ☆

By Janice
Pedersen, Editor

The Story of the Great W.W. Kimball Pipe Organ



The wood was nicked here and there, the finish had lost its luster, and the style was definitely out of date, but the old 1923 organ console nevertheless displayed its "For Sale" sign with a pride hard to match. Maybe it was due to the name "W.W. Kimball of Chicago." Any antique dealer could have immediately discerned quality from this name alone. But the story of this particular W.W. Kimball goes far beyond a mere name...

It was Aimee Semple McPherson, known worldwide in the early 1900s as evangelist, author, songwriter, musician and founder of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, who ordered the organ be brought from Chicago, Illinois, in 1923. Appropriate for a Kimball, it was to be installed in her 5,300 seat evangelistic center, Angelus Temple in Los Angeles, then boasting what was said to be the largest unsupported concrete dome on the continent, if not the world, and the largest seating capacity of any fireproof building in Southern California.

Esther Fricke Stewart, the first organist at Angelus Temple, worked very closely with W.W. Kimball of Chicago to make the list of specifications for the three-manual, 23 rank Kimball Orchestral Pipe Organ.

It is hard to say if there was another organ more used than the Kimball organ in Angelus Temple, for it accompanied Mrs. McPherson in 21 weekly services. Due to Aimee Semple McPherson's diversified music, the organ was included in everything from classics to gospel music to opera scores, including "The Bells of Bethlehem."

In an unusual commendation of the instrument, she said, "The organ—of all inanimate things I love it most. Inanimate itself, it nevertheless seems to contain somewhere within those mighty pipes



Aimee Semple McPherson, composer of 180 songs and five major operas, was one who understood music and could feel music. Of all instruments, she loved the organ most.

the epitome of all life. When I am sad it whispers to me in a tremolo undertone, and when I am joyous it shares my joy with all the world in deep, deafening tones."

More candidly: "Oftentimes, when the church is empty save for an isolated soul praying here and there, I slip inside and drop in to a seat under the shadow of one of the pillars, and there, listening to its multi-throated melodies, the organ brings me peace."

Interestingly enough, it is told that Charlie Chaplin suggested to Mrs. McPherson that she add a proscenium arch to the platform. This necessitated the organ be moved to the center of the orchestra pit, and it was placed on a platform which served as an elevator. Thus, when the Kimball was featured in a solo number, the organ could be elevated to eight feet above the pit.

Thousands of music lovers spent hours traveling to hear organ recitals. Kimball concerts by radio were soon possible when Mrs. McPherson became the first woman in the nation to receive a radio license from the FCC, and KFSG (Kall the FourSquare Gospel) became the first

fully religious radio station in the nation to begin operation.

Due to its overwhelming use through the years, the Kimball has understandably been in need of restoration. So, the congregation of Angelus Temple spent one entire year in 1983, and \$40,000 graciously donated by an anonymous foundation, restoring the great Kimball to its original state. This celebrated 60 years of musical ministry and the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the Four-square denomination.

To give an idea of what was involved, it was found that the Kimball contains over 5,000 individual working parts. The longest pipe is 16 feet long and over 1 foot in diameter, with the smallest pipe being $\frac{3}{8}$ " long and $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter. The 1,679 pipes are constructed of sugar pine and maple woods, brass, lead, and pure tin metals. Over 100 feet of sterling silver wire was used in the electrical contacts of the organ, with over 4 miles of fine copper wire slightly larger than a human hair. One interesting note is that if all the lumber used in its construction was cut into two-by-four's, it would frame a two-story house!

The face of the console is different now, too. The console had been part of Angelus Temple for 50 years when, in 1973, the congregation found need to replace it in celebration of their 50th Anniversary.

But the old 1923 console was not just tossed aside. Paul Mickelson, renowned organist, had an old friendship going with the instrument, for it was on this very console that he had taken his first lesson. He bought the console, refinished the wood, and in a surprise gesture after his performance on the Kimball in a rededication ceremony in October of 1983, he presented the old console back to Angelus Temple—back home where it belonged.

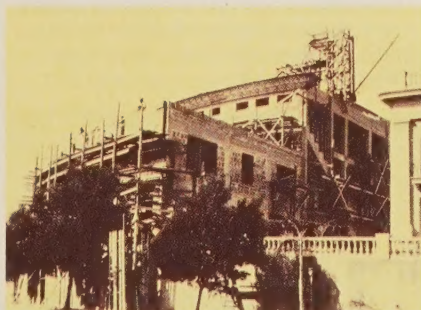
N. America



*The Vision
Begins*

Aimee Semple McPherson preaching in Oakland, California, circa 1922...

"In the face of the Man, I saw the Man of Sorrows.... In the face of the Lion, I saw the mighty Baptizer with the Holy Ghost.... In the face of the Ox was typified the great burden bearer, who...took our infirmities.... In the face of the Eagle, I saw reflected...our Bridegroom, who would soon come to catch His bride away. It was a perfect gospel...A gospel that faced in every direction. Why—it's the Foursquare Gospel!"



Sister McPherson only started with \$5,000 to build Angelus Temple. "But," she said, "if we dig the foundation, God will fill it."

VISION, the Foursquare movement was born.

The first visible sign of this worldwide movement, the construction of evangelism center Angelus Temple in Los Angeles, came in an extraordinary way. After campaigning cross-country, "Sister" McPherson had raised only \$5,000 for the building fund. The contractors assured her it was impossible.

But, the news wires crackled with her indomitable conviction that—"...if we dig the foundation, God will fill it." And sure enough, on January 1, 1923, Sister McPherson's faith was borne out at the dedication of Angelus Temple which seated 5,300 worshippers and was then valued at \$1,500,000. EVANGELISM was the cry of those days, and it was etched on the cornerstone: "Dedicated Unto the Cause of Inter-denominational and World Wide Evangelism."



**ADVANCING
THROUGH THE
1980's
1990's
2000**

"JESUS CHRIST The Same Yesterday, Today and Forever"

**INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
REVIVAL CAMPAIGN**

WITH
Aimee Semple McPherson

A HOST OF WORKERS AND MUSICIANS
ARE INVITED AND EXPECTED
Services 2:30 P. M. and 7:30 P. M. Daily

COLISEUM SITUATED AT ENTRANCE of GOLDEN GATE PARK
SAN FRANCISCO
April 1-23, 1922 ALL SEATS
FREE

A postcard announces Aimee Semple McPherson's revival campaign in San Francisco, California, 1922.

She stood there, hands gripping the pulpit. Her white gown could be seen from the farthest chair, her dark brown hair was piled gracefully in the style of 1922, and the wooden platform creaked as it gave way under her shifting feet. Her eyes were on fire and her voice spoke loud with conviction; yet, there was something about her which did not cease to radiate warmth and care.

But whatever the many emotions that were emitting from that one moment, there was no doubt that Aimee Semple McPherson had sprung upon something new. In that moment of



Above: Dr. H. Wesley Cooksey leads a prayer group in the 500 Room of Angelus Temple.

Right: Greeted with flowers, Aimee Semple McPherson arrives at the Minneapolis, Minnesota, Airport in 1934.

TOGETHER N.A.

4

MISSIONS
INTERNATIONAL

The Vision Today

At the outset, Sister McPherson saw that world shaking outreach would demand life-changing preparation. So, one month after the dedication of Angelus Temple, the Lighthouse of International Foursquare Evangelism (L.I.F.E. Bible College) was founded.

Since then, that small room on the



Students of L.I.F.E. Bible College at Los Angeles in the 1950s prepare to carry on the work of the Foursquare Gospel.

upper floor of Angelus Temple has expanded to a full Bible college program in Los Angeles, and now includes L.I.F.E. Bible College, Vancouver, B.C.; Mount Vernon Bible College, Mt. Vernon, Ohio; and 55 more around the world.

PEOPLE OF ACTION

Adherents to Sister McPherson's vision soon recognized how closely her message and ministry were bound together in doctrine and aspirations for evangelism—by 1926, 50 churches had been established. By 1927, Sister had mobilized our first missionaries to Asia. Today, 9,925 Foursquare churches span the globe.

IN RETROSPECT

Recognizing that Aimee Semple McPherson was the most written about woman of her day; noting how her message literally touched millions on every continent; and today,

appreciating how our church is rooted in a historic outpouring of the Holy Spirit, one can only say—God truly visited His people.

MOVING IN VISION

"The Lord Jesus said that He would build His Church. His ability to do so is without question. But, our willingness to let Him could be in question. We must continually ask ourselves—are we moving with Him to build His Church?"

—Dr. Roy Hicks, General Supervisor, U.S.A.

During the last decade, the North American Church has grown 50% in its number of churches. Overall, every department from Sunday school to missions has grown 100%. We now have many churches numbering in the thousands on any Sunday. "Church On the Way," the First Foursquare Church of Van Nuys, California, pastored by Dr. Jack Hayford, recorded over 8,000 in attendance on Easter Sunday, 1984.



Foursquare evangelism was still expanding with the development of effective "house ministries" in the 1970s.



Dr. Roy H. Hicks, Sr., General Supervisor, says, "We must continually ask ourselves—are we moving with Him to build His Church?"

The Beaverton, Oregon, Foursquare Church, pastored by Rev. Ron Mehl, recorded over 4,000 in attendance last Easter. Yet, both of these congregations, and others like them, began a few years ago with as few as 25 people! Churches in the extreme northeast section of the States are reporting a fresh move of the Spirit of God, including the Easton Foursquare Church, Massachusetts, pastored by Rev. David Holland. Other churches include the Clinton, Foursquare Church, Iowa, pastored by Rev. James Machen, and the Moline Gospel Temple Foursquare Church in Illinois, pastored by Rev. Charles Hollis.

WORSHIP, AND MINISTRY OF THE WORD: these practices are church growth principles. All are high priority items among those churches growing explosively.

Why? Because Jesus is their focal point. Wherever people have been encouraged to build a relationship with Jesus, renewal on the personal level has inevitably led to renewal on the church level. Across the nation, there's an air of expectancy. Even in churches more reluctant to lay aside tradition, there's a sense that a new anointing is imminent.

The Enlarged Vision

Divine healing is not performing a ceremony; it is not wringing a petition from the heavens by the logic of faith and the force of your will...it is the inbreathing of God's life. It is the living touch which none can understand except those whose senses are exercised to know the realities of the world unseen."

—Aimee Semple McPherson



The Foursquare Church unites at regular national conventions to focus on renewed direction. Here, Rev. John Wold leads in worship at the 1983 Foursquare Convention in Glorieta, New Mexico.

A miracle age is emerging. Today we are seeing captives coming to many Foursquare churches and being set free. We are seeing stone-cold believers coming to services and catching fire in a renewed first love. An energetic, overcoming, involved church is the result.

AVENUES OF COMMITMENT

The Church in the United States and Canada is facing one of the greatest challenges in history: namely, evangelizing our own diverse, ever-changing people. How do we reach these millions?

The Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada, at one time included as a district with the other nine in the United States, has become its own national church. Operating under its

own government and led by Rev. Victor Gardner, they envision doubling their current 35 churches to 74 by 1990.

The International Church of the



Reaching out to neighborhood children is a necessary part of spreading the Good News.

Foursquare Gospel in the United States through its nine District Supervisors is launching a major church planting thrust in 1985. 2000 by 2000 is brand new...a plan which, together with Canada, will ultimately reverberate across the North American continent.

Staged in conjunction with our established church planting program, it calls for each District to commit enough prayer, personnel, and money to initiate scores of new churches in each district until A.D. 2000, with the vision being 2000 churches.

Right now, the International Board is asking you to: 1) prayerfully consider each avenue of commitment such as prayer and financial support; 2) heed any new direction that the Lord might indicate—such as neighborhood outreach or even HIDDEN PEOPLE groups outreach; and 3) consider partnering together to "mother" a new church.

The U.S. and Canada could go the way of history's other super powers unless the Church shouts that Christ is truly the SOLID ROCK, while pathetically, all else is sinking sand....

Dr. Jack Hayford, pastor of "Church on the Way," the First Foursquare Church of Van Nuys, California, avidly practices the church growth principles of worship and ministry of the Word.



A Vision with Clarity

North America is at the moral crossroads of its history."
—Dr. Roy Hicks, General Supervisor

A recent study indicated that a large number of North American young people have *no God reference*



The Executive Council meets annually to lend national leadership to the Body in North America.

whatsoever. They are as alien to the things of God as any tribe lost deep in the jungles of the Amazon. The ominous conclusion—North America is growing more nominally Christian by the year.

America has slipped from the godly



With Jesus as the focal point, spiritual renewal on the personal level leads to renewal on the church level, as seen in the El Monte Foursquare Church, California.

moorings of her founders and drifted into a maelstrom of spiritual and social chaos. Symptomatically, certain forces are attacking our religious freedom with unprecedented fury. Much of the news media has joined in. Many publications can no longer be counted on to give unbiased reports about the Church and religious trends. If this grave attack continues, even the governing bodies of America may no longer protect us.

At first glance, these facts might seem to paint a hopeless picture,



Today, we are seeing captives set free in many churches including Hope Chapel Foursquare Church, Hermosa Beach, California.

but...THE CHURCH WAS BORN AND HAS THRIVED IN SPITE OF CONFLICT! Jesus battled numerous confrontations. First century Christians battled opposing spiritual forces. Christians throughout history have battled an assortment of secular and religious oppressors. In the end, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ overcame.

Now the gauntlet is thrown before us and the need is for Jesus to be lifted up. Our responsibilities are to preach the gospel and overcome evil with good through a godly VISION FOR NORTH AMERICA.

A FRUITFUL VISION

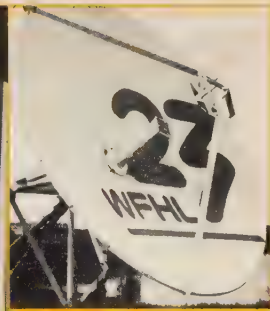
2000 BY 2000 is a plan that



expresses our Foursquare understanding of God's intentions for North America.

But a vision is not a true vision until received...

...and is not a fruitful vision until acted upon. 2000 by 2000 is a vision...not a goal. We, in Foursquare, have accepted the vision as a prophecy, the Word of the Lord, and "happy are the people who obey the Word of the Lord."



WFHL raises production costs during a recent telethon.

WFHL-Channel 23 TV: Something a Little Different

A FOURSQUARE FIRST

In a day when research published by the National Coalition on Television Violence reports as many as 34 violent acts in a one-hour television show, Decatur Foursquare Broadcasting, Inc., offspring of the Decatur, Illinois, Foursquare Church, has seen the need to go another route.

"We want to offer squeaky clean type programs that are also just plain fun," says WFHL-Channel 23 Television Station General Manager Joel Sanchez.

Though the station is primarily dedicated to Christian broadcasting, Sanchez refers to a well-rounded program which includes "700 Club," "100 Huntley Street," "Jimmy Swaggert," "The Old Time Gospel Hour with Jerry Falwell," "Lassie" reruns, "Wild Kingdom," fishing, gardening, and exercise programs, and drama series such as "Another Life," and "Patterns for Living."

The Decatur Foursquare Church is the first church in the organization to operate their own television station. Rev. James Houpt, pastor of the church and President of Foursquare Broadcasting, attributes the success of the station to "the hard work of many dedicated volunteers, and the fact that God gave us favor with the people."

Channel 23 developed from Cable Channel 6 which broadcasted to the city of Decatur (population 94,000) for several years. Channel 6 was operated primarily on a volunteer basis, comprised mostly of the ministerial staff of the Foursquare church. But according to Sanchez, when Channel 23 became available on UHF, a decision had to be made concerning whether they wanted to "continue to just serve Decatur residents," or if they would accept a "mission to broadcast Christian

December, 1984



Rev. James Houpt is pastor of the Decatur Foursquare Church and President of Decatur Foursquare Broadcasting, Inc.

television throughout Central Illinois."

Today, WFHL-Channel 23 broadcasts the Word of God to nearly one million people 16 hours daily. WFHL stands for "With Faith, Hope and Love." Over 240 communities have responded to the station. Already the challenge has come to broadcast 24 hours a day.

In celebrating the dedication of the station, Channel 23 hosted a telethon May

15-20 featuring such names as Norma Zimmer from the Lawrence Welk Show, Doug Oldham, gospel singer, Russ Hollingsworth, gospel artist and songwriter, the Spurlows, and Bob Silvers from the Saturday Evening Post.

A unique feature of the station is the local "Newsline" program which broadcasts live every morning. Decatur **Tribune** Editor and Publisher Paul Osborne anchors the live newscast. Osborne has said the television news program, in many ways, is like a video Decatur **Tribune**. "We are approaching the program with a newspaper concept," he said. "Viewers are given something a little different than most news programs. In most cases, we are the first program on with local news. I look forward to a long relationship with the station."

Following "Newsline," Rev. Houpt and Mr. Sanchez co-host a daily live program called, "Time For The Family." This one-hour broadcast of interview format provides opportunities to address needs of the viewing audience. Christians are given opportunities to share their testimonies and musicians to share their talents. God has already ministered to thousands of people through prayer and telephone counseling.

Taking into consideration the whole of the project, Rev. James Houpt commented, "This project is costly, far more than any one group of people could ever accomplish, but with many people sharing the common vision, the task is very possible. The investment for Christian television today will help secure a brighter future for the generations to follow."



Joseph and Mary took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. There, Simeon took him in his arms, saying, "My eyes have seen your salvation...a light to the Gentiles." ☆ ☆

Meet Florence Hoffman

Come to My Home for Advent!



Even the littlest one had her furry flannel "nightie" on as our two daughters would snuggle up close to us in front of the glowing fireplace.

Every Christmas Eve they were one year older than the last. The lights would be turned down and candles and Christmas tree lit, as we turned on the beautiful recording of our traditional Christmas story.

But the candle which always seemed to burn brightest was the tall, thick red candle in the center of our angel food cake, for that cake was decorated in honor of Jesus' birthday. The candle was red because He came just to die for us. And there was the writing in red candy icing, done in a child's scrawl: "Happy Birthday, Jesus." It was ready for that wonderful morning when, together, before anyone turned to the gift-laden tree, we would join hands around that glowing candle and sing, "Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus."

Such memories of past Advent seasons have bound our families close together even as our little ones are now grown. Ah, the wonder of Advent—season of expectation! Coming from the word "adventus" it proclaims the time "to come; to reach for!" It is that "fullness of time" when, in the heavens, Almighty God proclaimed, "NOW!"

Celebrate Advent!

The days of Advent in my Christian German home in Kenosha, Wisconsin, were filled with the wonderful scents and sounds of true Christmas preparation. Christmastime was made into a deeply

spiritual season, as my childhood holidays were given only to the biblical story of the wonderful event. Did you know that mincemeat has its significance in the spices brought by the wisemen to the Christ Child? It was first made into little oblong cakes to resemble the manger bed. All the decorations told their part of the gospel story; holly boughs with their glossy, spiny-edged leaves and crimson berries became a vivid picture of why He came and the price He paid for our salvation.

Today the celebration continues. The big punch bowl heaped with frothy, large pearl ("fish-eye") tapioca pudding has become a must throughout the years. There just has to be an imaginative display of decorated cookies to make a nativity scene that "you had better not touch!" And everyone knows that spicy scent through the rooms is from the pot of wassail on the warmer. This festive beverage had its origin with the Anglo-Saxons; the wassail bowl was shared by all around a large, round table. The word comes from "wes hal," meaning "be in health."

Advent—Time of Spiritual Preparation

Advent really began as a Christian season in the sixth century, A.D. The Church began her year by looking forward to the birth of Jesus, His coming as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of

the world.

How numerous were the days of remembrance God had set up in early Bible days for His chosen people! He gave great detail as to just how they should be observed. But now, having seen the beautiful promise fulfilled, we celebrate the wonder of Advent.

The traditional Advent season begins four Sundays before Christmas and lasts until Christmas Eve. We find ourselves now into Advent season, but the date on the calendar is not of real import. TODAY is the first day of the rest of Advent, true? We can start celebrating! How excited are you right now about the coming of the Saviour?

The most common observance is the Advent wreath. One candle is lit weekly with the "Christ candle" lit on Christmas Eve. Scripture readings are taken from the prophet Isaiah and the wonderful first chapter of John. Then, the Christmas story in Luke is used with the "Christ candle."

When this custom originated in early times, the wreath was suspended from the ceiling in a central gathering place. Soon, it became adapted to home use along with the Christmas tree as we know it today. The Advent scroll basket wreath expanded the devotions by inserting little scrolls of paper, one for each day of Advent. These would suggest portions of Scripture, a song, or a Christmas activity to bring everyone into participation.

How our dwelling places should throb with the wonder of Advent! From "generation to generation," from our children to our grandchildren, we are given the mandate to hand down the Word of Truth. Even if we have no family at

Anna, the prophetess, also spoke about the child and the redemption of Jerusalem. And the child grew, became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and God's grace was upon him. ★ ★ ★

home, we are to remember His name is Emmanuel, meaning "God With Us!" So we are to celebrate! Let me share with you an excellent Christmas activity which comes from an age-old Advent tradition.

The Jesse Tree

How well I remember the November day in 1961 when a dear Lutheran lady walked into my small Christian supply store and started asking for an assortment of little items. One by one, I failed her, and finally said, "I'm so sorry, but what do you want those things for?" I have never seen her since to thank her for her reply: "I believe I'll start a Jesse Tree this year."

What a spark she dropped into my love for the Christmas season! From that day on, I've known the joy of gathering everything I can find on the wonder of God's preservation of Christ's bloodline.

The Jesse Tree is a custom of over a thousand years old, a very popular theme of Christian art in the Middle Ages. Just a little bare tree from a shapely branch was decorated with symbols to represent the ancestors of Christ and the patriarchs and prophets God used to keep the promise alive. It is the "family tree" from Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 11:1, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse" (RSV).

Plot Against the Bloodline

What stories of intrigue are found as Satan set out to thwart God's plan in each generation! God's words in Genesis 3:15 regarding the Seed of the woman were addressed to Satan, because the Conflict of the Ages was begun. But since Satan could not destroy the Seed himself, he tried to corrupt the records. It was mandatory that every detail of God's prophecies be preserved; and yet repeatedly it seemed absolutely impossible.

But the records were preserved. We see with the Jesse Tree that truly all those "begats" are recorded with great purpose. Matthew records the legal line of Joseph who came from David's seed through Solomon; then Luke tells the wondrous detail of Mary's ancestry from David through Nathan, all the way back to Adam. With those "begats," both Matthew and Luke declare, "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!"

You Can Make Your Jesse Tree

It did not take me long to find my little tabletop Christmas tree. Standing about 28" tall, the branches were made of beautiful gold foil. Now the little limbs are very worn, but though I have its pretty green replacement all ready, I just couldn't change it this year either!

Each story becomes fresh and alive as we start at the bottom with an apple

representing Adam and Eve and work upward to the little manger—and then the figure of Christ reigning gloriously at the top. All the symbols may be made simply of felt or cardboard covered with colored foils; a cutout picture of Christ can be backed with cardboard for the top.

Let me share with you the little items we have found and fashioned to hang upon our tree. Some had to be "custom designed." The "treasure hunt" for symbols need not be hurried; look for more after the holidays, or gather the family to make a few each year. Then set your own Advent schedule to day by day hang an object on the tree and read from the Bible or storybooks about how God won the battle against Satan to pass the seed from Adam to the virgin Mary, espoused to Joseph.

Adam and Eve

An apple. Genesis 1:26-31, 2:16 - 3:24.

Noah and Family

A small wooden ark from a Christian bookstore. Genesis 6:5 - 8:22.

Abraham

Plastic tent from a toy soldier set. Genesis 12:1-8.

Isaac

A little lamb. Genesis 21:1-8, and 22:1-8.

Rebekah

Miniature water pitcher. Genesis 24:1-67.

Jacob

Plastic ladder made for a bird cage. Genesis 25:21-34, 28:1-5 and 10-22.

Joseph

Little robe made of vello cloth, brightly striped. Genesis 37:1-36.

Moses

A 2" basket with tiny plastic infant glued in. Exodus 1:7 - 2:10 Tablets of the Law cut from thin Styrofoam and "marked" with black ink. Exodus 20:1-17.

Sacrifices

A plastic heifer glued onto a scrap of red felt. Leviticus 1:1-4; Hebrews 9:19-22, 10:10.

Joshua

Tiny cluster of grapes. Numbers 13:17 - 14:10.

Rahab

Braided red cord. Joshua 2:1-22, 6:17-25. (She married Salmon, a "prince" of Israel.)

Ruth

Wheat sheaf from the floral department. Book of Ruth.

David

A plastic harp separated from a little gold angel figure and hooked into a homemade crown of gold foil with "jewels". I Samuel 16:13, 17-23; Psalm 23; II Samuel 5:4 and chapter 22.

Solomon

"Temple pillars" from the aquarium department: find a decorative archway made for fish to swim through. I Kings 5:1-5, 7:48-51, 8:1-11.

Jonah

A "whale-shaped" fish. Book of Jonah.

Isaiah

Miniature Torah from a Hebrew bookstore. Prophecies of the Messiah: Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7, portions of chapter 53; Micah 5:2.

Daniel

A lion. Daniel 6 (God always preserved a remnant, even in captivity.)

Esther

Scepter-shaped jewelry pin on purple star ("Esther" means "star"). Book of Esther.

Gabriel

Small angel figure (no wings), re-dressed in silk white robe. Luke 1:26-38.

Joseph

Figure of robed man with toy saw. Matthew 1:18-25.

Manger scene

A small Christmas ornament. Luke 2:1-20.

How joyful to have the little ones excitedly pick up the small objects and exclaim, "Oh, I know that story...I'll hang it!" And once you've found, or made, your little manger scene to place at the treetop by the Risen Christ, I think you might be able to hear, faintly, as you sing Christmas carols, an angel chorus "bending low" with a countermelody of "Up From the Grave He Arose."

Oh Christian, *know it, feel it!* Let's FILL our dwelling places with a heavenly aroma of the gospel this year...THE WONDER OF ADVENT!

Cassette Tape Offered

Mrs. Hoffman is offering "The Jesse Tree Story" on cassette, a narration for use in learning about your Jesse Tree. Included are many miraculous details of God's preservation of the Bloodline. Send a check for just \$3.50 (postage and handling covered) to Hoffman Ministries, 7770 Johnstown Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050.

Florence Hoffman and her husband, Clifton, serve as Christian Education Directors of the Eastern District of Foursquare Churches. The Hoffmans have been very active in Foursquare ministry having served with United Foursquare Women, Foursquare Men's Ministries, Mount Vernon Bible College and the Eastern District camping program.



ETC.
ETC.
ETC.

Tour Western Europe!

...And be a participant in the dynamic Pentecostal World Conference in Zurich, Switzerland, June 27 to July 13, 1985.

This 17-day tour will include such sites as Spain; Athens, Greece; Switzerland; France; Belgium and England. The cost of \$2327 includes airfare, four-star hotel accommodations, daily continental breakfast, air-conditioned motorcoach, and more.

Ask for more details by writing to: Phil D. Starr (Foursquare Missions International Communications Coordinator), Tour Host, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, or call (213) 484-1100, ext. 36, direct.

Alcohol Often Substitute for God, Says National Safety Expert

Vernon L. Grose, member of the Van Nuys, California, Foursquare Church before accepting a position on the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, D.C., was able to use positive Christian influence as he spoke at a recent meeting of the Minnesota Council on Alcoholism.

While most experts consider alcohol the major cause of traffic deaths and injuries, Grose maintained that alcohol is just one symptom of many people substituting things for God in their lives.

"People drink because they want to be someone other than themselves," he said. Drinking, the use of drugs, buying expensive clothes and sports cars or taking fantasy vacations can all be attempts to change or improve one's role in life, said Grose. People are driven to do this, he said, because of an innate desire to be just a little better, brighter, smarter, older, younger or better looking than they are at the present. They are not totally satisfied. As a result, they suffer from despair, disappointment in life and expectations which can't be attained.

"We have turned to created things instead of the Creator," he said in referring to Romans 1:20-24.

Suit Challenging Army Chaplains Corps Dismissed

A federal judge in New York has affirmed the constitutionality of the military chaplains corps, saying clergy in uniform provide service members "an opportunity for worship" while preserving the "religious neutrality of the government."

In so ruling, Judge Joseph M. McLaughlin of the Eastern District of New York dismissed a suit filed more than four years ago by two Harvard law school students. They had charged that by

maintaining an Army chaplains corps, the government was violating a clause in the First Amendment that Congress "shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

But Judge McLaughlin said Congress provides chaplains "to allow all soldiers to worship however they choose, if they choose to do so at all. Given the obligations and restrictions imposed upon those in the military, Congress may constitutionally do no less."

—*Evangel News Digest*

"Equal Access" Bill Passes House

An "Equal Access" bill, guaranteeing students wishing to meet for religious

purposes the same access to public school facilities enjoyed by other student groups, was passed July 25 by the House of Representatives on a vote of 337-77.

The bill, H.R. 1310, is an amendment to a science and math spending bill passed by the Senate, and guarantees public school students the right to use school facilities for prayer and Bible study before and after school. These meetings must be voluntary, without sponsorship by a school or its teachers, who may only be there as nonparticipants.

—*EP News Service 7/28/84*

Passage of Equal Access is a tremendous victory for evangelicals, and for Americans of every faith.

—*NAE Washington Insight 8/84*



DECLARE THE WORD

Expect the Wondrous

1985 Convention on Healing, Signs and Wonders March 11-17

A point in time...when the entire Foursquare movement will focus on the supernatural ministry of the Church.

Roy Hicks, Sr.

General Supervisor, Chairman with a burden for signs and wonders

Oral Roberts

Evangelist known worldwide for healing ministry

John Wimber

Extensive speaker on signs and wonders with a personal testimony as a pastor

Jack Hayford

Offering views as part of a team in answer to delegate question and answer seminar

Ron Mehl

Personable pastoral teaching for spiritual truth

Evelyn Roberts

Author, speaker, television personality, wife of Oral Roberts

Roy Hicks, Jr.

Dynamic speaker known to youth and adults alike

Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, CA

Registrar: 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026 (213) 484-1100



house during his New York City campaign, when he thundered, "I tell you, that if hell could be turned upside down, you could read on the bottom, 'Made in Germany!'"

While it is well to keep alert, the question arises: May it not be time to forget Pearl Harbor?

To all intents and purposes, we already have forgotten Pearl Harbor. We see evidence in every parking lot: Toyota, Datsun-Nissan, Honda, Mazda, Izusu, and Subaru. We see evidence in appliance stores: Sony, Panasonic, Mitsubishi, and numerous other electronic companies which have cornered the American television and video market. Even items sporting traditional American names like RCA and Zenith are made in Japan. When I was a child, "Made in Japan" was a badge of cheapness. I recall Sister McPherson quoting a report that the oriental nation renamed one of its islands "USA" in order to mark goods, "Made in USA."

But quality now is the hallmark of Japanese manufacturing. Commercially, Americans seem to have forgotten Pearl Harbor. And our ex-enemy Japan is now a friend and ally, while America underwrites its defense. An AP-NBC poll sometime ago revealed that one out of

every six Americans does not know the meaning of "Pearl Harbor." The bitterness once intoned by the December 7 slogan has long since subsided.

Actually, it may be easier to forgive a nation or race than to forgive a person or acquaintance. Yet Christians must forgive everyone if they are to continue qualifying to receive forgiveness from God. My unforgiveness may be a worse sin than the sin of another whom I refuse to forgive! It certainly harms him who withholds forgiveness more than the unforgiven sin hurts, because it cuts one off from God's forgiveness with frightful consequences.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Forgive us our debts (sins), as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt. 6:12, NIV). The Greek seems to require our forgiveness as a pre-condition to God's! And he warns, "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses" (Mark 11:26; cf. also Matt. 18:21-35). Whether or not you forget Pearl Harbor, your personal standing with God requires you to forgive all who offend you!

Dr. Cox is the pastor of the Salem, Oregon, Foursquare Church.

Forget Pearl Harbor?

Shall we forget Pearl Harbor?

I still remember that infamous Sunday morning, December 7, 1941. I learned of the sneak attack while listening to Radio Station KFSG. Something had hindered me from attending the Angelus Temple morning worship service. Aimee Semple McPherson announced the air raid and called on staff ministers, including Thompson Eade, to comment.

For years, the slogan "Remember Pearl Harbor!" cautioned Americans to beware of unexpected attacks. Our bitterness against Japan, however, probably never reached the intensity that resentment against Germany attained during World War I. Billy Sunday brought down the



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scrabble Fan Writes

"I love to read your magazine, but in the October issue you goofed! You started your Scrabble game in the wrong spot.

"When any normal person plays, the first word has to be over the star. If you were to move the words left one space, you would have "revival" over the star. You would have lost your double letter score under the "a" in "revival," but you would gain two double letter scores under the "e" and the second "r" of "refresh." You also would have gotten a triple letter score under the "r" of "renew," and the "r" of "revival" would have gotten a double letter score. But, you can't count any of the points because of that little star in the middle of the board!"

—Raquel Smith

Fast Grand Forks, Minnesota
(A 15-year-old Scrabble fan)

So Good That...

"The issue on 'Holiness in an Unholy World' was so good that I read all of the articles twice. Wow!"

—Elinore Tolle
Modesto, California

Against All Odds

"May I commend you for the fine issue of the September ADVANCE. Your article 'Faith Against All Odds' was most impressive. It brought back many beautiful memories since we first met Rolf and Roberta at the parsonage in 1922. They were introduced by Sister McPherson."

—Dr. Harold W. Jefferies
Santa Ana, California

Gifts from God

January 2, 1984: "Thank you for sending me the December issue of ADVANCE.

"What did the Lord give you for Christmas? I didn't ask you what you received from friends and family, but what the Lord gave you. Have you even opened it yet? Or thanked Him for it?"

light off the tree, just as believers are to be reflections of Jesus. Placed on the branches, threaded popcorn looks to have no beginning or end, reminding one of Jesus as "bread corn" (Isaiah 28:28), the Nourisher who also doesn't start or finish.

Perhaps the candles that used to be placed on trees made people remember that Jesus is the Light of the world, and

"Praise God! This has probably been the best Christmas that I have ever had. He gave me several special gifts. The Lord gave me some 'driving lessons' for Christmas. He showed me the power that is in the Blood and Name of Jesus Christ. Because of this power, the spirit of rebellion and rejection that I have been plagued with has left, and I haven't been bothered since!"

"The Lord gave me another present also. I will be transferred from my 'maximum security' prison to a 'medium security' institution. Praise God! "Finally, I will be blessed with the opportunity to tape three half-hour programs for a TV station in Yakima. Five of us will be able to show the 'free world' the change that Christ can make in our lives."

—James J. Sweiberg, Jr.
Walla Walla, Washington

We enjoy hearing from our readers. Letters are edited for space and conciseness of thought. Write to The Editor, ADVANCE, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.

the fruit, which in past days was strung and draped across the limbs, points to the fruit of the Spirit that Jesus imparts (Galatians 5).

Though many Christmas traditions have no such meanings for those who celebrate the birth of the Savior without knowing Him, Christians can realize that the origins of a great number speak of Jesus, if only one listens.

The Stockings Were Hung

(Continued from p. 3)

Christ never ends. By pointing upwards, the tree directs one to the Father above, and testifies to Christians' faith in someday joining Him in Heaven.

Naturally the star often put on the top of a tree speaks of the Star of Bethlehem. Tinsel was originally meant to reflect

We have the TEACHERS the CURRICULUM and the STUDENTS

Now all we need is...

CLOCKS STAPLERS
OVERHEAD PROJEC
BOOKS PLUMBING ROOFS LUMBER NAILS WIND ERASERS PODIU
ELECTRICAL WIRING LIBRARY BOOKS REFERENCE MANUALS SCREENS
SERS PODIUMS/LECTERNS TABLES MIC STANDS LIGHTS ILLUSTRATIONS XEROX
ACHINES TYPEWRITERS CASSETTE RECORDERS PAPER WASH BASINS DOORS
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